

## WHAT IS USATCES?

The U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES) serves as the technical advisor to the Army for explosives and chemical agent safety. Since 1992, the USATCES has greatly expanded its explosives safety support of programs and projects for the removal of ordnance and explosives (OE) from real property.

## OE MISSION-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◆ Develops DA policies, procedures, and regulations addressing explosives/chemical agent safety aspects of OE cleanup operations.
- ◆ Participates in HQDA planning sessions where explosives/chemical safety management principles for OE cleanup are developed.
- ◆ Assists HQDA in aligning Army OE safety policy with environmental law and regulation.
- ◆ Approves safety submissions for removal of OE from Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- ◆ Army-approves safety submissions for removal of OE from real property to be released outside DOD control.
- ◆ Provides expert assistance to the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) in the evaluation of cleanup safety submissions.

- ◆ Resolves controversies between other approval authorities at the installation, MACOM, HQDA, and DOD level on application of OE safety criteria.
- ◆ Provides technical assistance in the safety management aspects of OE removals. Assists MACOMS and installations in the preparation of explosives/chemical safety submissions for OE removals and subsequent land disposals.
- ◆ Provides onsite assistance at OE cleanup sites anywhere in the world where Army property requires OE cleanup before it can be released to the host nation.
- ◆ Reviews work plans and hazard analyses for OE cleanup actions.
- ◆ Manages the Army activities of the Military Services Explosives Safety Council (MSESC).



## HISTORY

The Director of the Army Staff (DAS) approved an Explosives Safety Management Plan in February 1988, establishing the Executive Director for Explosives Safety (EDES), USATCES, and the Department of the Army Explosives Safety Council (DAESC). The DAESC was established to formulate Army explosives safety policy. The EDES develops and executes the Army Explosives Safety Program pursuant to policies established by DOD and DASAF. The USATCES serves as technical advisor in these matters.

Since its inception, USATCES' responsibilities have grown. The Chemical Agent Safety and Army Hazard Classification missions were added in 1992. That year, USATCES also began assisting the USACE in the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program by preparing Archives Search Reports (ASRs).

In 1994, USATCES assisted FORSCOM in preparing the Army's first BRAC safety submission for cleaning up real property containing OE. In 1995, USATCES was granted approval authority for OE safety submissions for leasing, transferring, or disposing of Army real property where OE exists or is suspected to exist. The next year, USATCES temporarily assumed Army responsibility for the final approval of OE safety submissions for FUDS. The OE mission has continued to evolve. Currently the Ordnance Explosives Environmental Division has three teams assigned to ordnance cleanup operations.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# **Ordnance and Explosives Mission**